Page 3, between paragraphs [0008] and [0009], please insert:

---SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION---

Page 3, between paragraphs [0011] and [0012], please insert:

---DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT INVENTION---

Please replace paragraph **[0001]** with the following paragraph, with a marked-up copy of the replaced paragraph being included in the Appendix attached to this amendment:

[0001] The present invention relates to the field of chemistry and concerns hardenable masses, such as are used, for example, for the production of coatings, and a process for their production and processing.

Please replace paragraph **[0005]** with the following paragraph, with a marked-up copy of the replaced paragraph being included in the Appendix attached to this amendment:

[0005] By using cross-linkers containing uretdione groups (e.g., DE 23 12 391 OS, EP 045 998 A1, EP 669 353 A1), the possibility exists of avoiding such emissions of low-molecular substances. Due to the low level of reactivity of the internally blocked isocyanate groups, the use of corresponding hardeners containing uretdione groups has been limited up to the present day because the temperatures of greater than 160°C necessary for hardening are too high and/or the time necessary for hardening is too long. In view of the costs of energy and the possibility of

coating thermolabile substrates (e.g., plastic or wood), it is necessary to increase the reactivity of such systems.

Please delete paragraph **[0010]**.

Please replace paragraph **[0011]** with the following paragraph, with a marked-up copy of the replaced paragraph being included in the Appendix attached to this amendment:

[0011] It was possible to attain the objects of the present invention by providing the masses according to the invention. The masses according to the invention are based on the fact that, under the conditions according to the invention, Lewis acid catalysts, in particular metalorganic compounds, accelerate the transformation of uretdione groups with hydroxyl groups so strongly that, with their help and using the known uretdione hardeners, masses can be produced that already harden at comparatively low temperatures in the same amount of time or at the same temperatures in a considerably shorter period of time than the masses containing uretdione hardeners that have been known up to now.

Please replace paragraphs **[0015]** and **[0016]** with the following paragraphs, with a marked-up copy of the replaced paragraphs being included in the Appendix attached to this amendment:

[0015] The component B) contained in the mass according to the invention is a polyaddition compound that is present in a liquid or viscous form above the reaction or treatment temperature that contains uretdione groups and, optionally, free isocyanate groups based on aliphatic and/or

cycloaliphatic diisocyanates, in particular those based on 1,6-hexamethylene diisocyanate (HDI), 1-isocyanato-3,3,5-trimethyl-5-isocyanatomethylcyclohexane (IPDI), 4,4'-diisocyanatodicyclohexylmethane, 1,3 diisocyanato-2(4)-methylcyclohexane, or any unspecified mixture of these diisocyanates, with HDI and IPDI being preferred.

[0016] The component B) is used in the masses according to the invention in such amounts that, on every hydroxyl group of the bonding agent component A), 0.8 to 2.4, preferably 0.9 to 2.2 isocyanate groups of the component B) occur; isocyanate groups of component B) is to be understood as the sum of isocyanate groups present in dimeric form as uretdione groups and free isocyanate groups.

Please replace paragraph **[0018]** with the following paragraph, with a marked-up copy of the replaced paragraph being included in the Appendix attached to this amendment:

[0018] Catalysts C) that may be used are metalorganic compounds of the general formula

$$R_2MeX_2$$

in which

Me means metal,

R means alkyl residue, and

X means carboxylate residue

as well as metalorganic compounds of the general formula

$$R_2MeY_2$$

in which